

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, July 19, 2010 - 5:00 p.m.
Mayor's Reception Room
Room 405, 4th Floor City Hall

Present: Ron Haglund, Rickey DeFoe, Ron Boshey, Donna Ennis

Excused Absence: Donna Bluebird, Antoinette Dickenson, Joy Dorscher, Donovan Strong

Unexcused Absence: none

Resignations: Renee Van Nett, Beatrice Kitto

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting was called to order at 5:07. There was no change to the agenda.

Motion by Ron Boshey, seconded by Ron Haglund, to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

DAIC introductions, Community introductions. Community in attendance included: Melanie Ford, Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts, Gretchen Ransom, Warner Wirta, Susan Sawyer, Brad Clifford, Veronica Nelson (Spirit Mt Board Appointee) and Officer Leigh Wright (police liaison officer to the DAIC) Donna asked that Officer Wright be added to the agenda as a standing agenda item.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 21, 2010 MEETING:

Motion by Ron Haglund, seconded by Ron Boshey, to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2010 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Warner Wirta raised concerns regarding the proposed mining plans in NE Minnesota by Polymet Mining Company. He raised environmental concerns and encouraged the DAIC and others to oppose approval of the mining. Warner provided the commission with information and maps regarding the project and proposed pollution. Ricky DeFoe agreed to attend a meeting with Warner Wirta July 26th on the range regarding the project.

Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts, Executive Director of AICHO, informed the commission about a joint PAVSA, DAIP, and AICHO initiative to form a task force to look at the exploitation and trafficking of women and children. One resource will be the MN Women's Resource Center. The task force will explore ways that the DAIC and bigger community can help victims. Persons can call Bree Bussey at AICHO, 722-2247 for more information.

Sherry also presented information about Camp Sheila (named for Sheila Wellstone) to be held on August 26 & 27, 2010. The camp will address broad issues and enter into long term planning regarding women's issues. Persons can call Sherry at 722-7225 for more information.

Another project regarding Supportive Housing was reviewed. The County has recently approved whole family placement and shared family care initiative. One of AICHO's programs, Geeway, is flexible enough to allow them to hold housing for women who enter into whole family placement.

Brad Clifford spoke regarding the green job training programs at Fond du Lac College. He indicated that no women or persons of color were participating in the training. Donna referred him to work force development as they could get the word out about the training programs and potential job opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS:

AICHO's Gimaajii (YWCA Housing/Indian Center) Report

Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts, Executive Director of AICHO, presented an update on the project and handed out a summary with a timeline. The National Parks Service has approved the historic rehabilitation plans. The project has achieved 100% capital financing with the recent new funding commitments in the amounts of \$150,000 from MHFA, \$50,000 from Shakopee Sioux Community, and \$50,000 from HRA. The final requirement in order to close on the construction financing is for AICHO to close on the Historic Tax Credits. In order for this to happen, AICHO needs forbearance agreements from MHFA, GMHF, and the City of Duluth. MHFA approved the concept of the forbearance agreement on July 12th. Pending all approvals, AICHO expects to close on the Historic Tax Credits on August 9th and the construction financing on August 30th, with a construction start date in September 2010.

Juvenile Justice Reform Update – Melanie Ford provided an update regarding the Juvenile Detention alternatives Initiative (JDAI). The Annie E Casey foundation conducted interviews last month and made recommendations to JDAI for program enhancements. Recommendations:

1. Oversight committee meet more frequently, recommend monthly rather than quarterly. The committee will begin meeting on the first Tuesday of the month.
2. More program immersion of involved staff. JDAI will set up meetings with Officer Tuskin and other police personnel.
3. Implement a risk assessment tool for ADIC placement.
4. Revisit and tighten up the work plan.
5. Work of actions that will maintain program sustainability. One action would be to search for co-leader of the oversight committee to serve with Melanie Ford. Look for person of color from northern half of the county.

The JDAI has a new committee co-chair replacement for Donovan Strong who has resigned. It is Pam Hughes from Bois Forte. She has a background in youth social work and is very enthusiastic.

Ron Hagland mentioned a survey tool used by the MN Dept of Health that could be adapted for use by the JDAI.

NEW BUSINESS:

August Feast and Forum – The commission has set the Feast & Forum for Thursday,

August 19, 2010 beginning at 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the Washington Center Gym. Last year the DAIC spent \$250 for the Drum Group and \$900 for the catering. The food ran out and not everyone got to eat. The DAIC has a total of \$1,598 in their account. No payments can be made up front this year. All vendors must submit an invoice and a W-9 to the City for reimbursement after the Feast & Forum. DAIC decided to use a caterer again rather than doing a potluck. Ron Hagland will check on a menu and prices from the 4th Street Market and get to Donna by this Friday. He said the caterer would provide the plates, plasticware, etc. Ron Boshey will arrange for the Drum Group. All members will be asked to help with set up and clean up.

Activity

Who is Responsible

Draft Agenda

Donna Ennis will finalize the Agenda.

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Keynote Address

Anishinabe Prayer with Pipe Ceremony

Feast

Open Forum

Drum Group -

Ron Boshey

Ron Boshey said Drum group from last year willing to participate again this year. But only played one song and no one gave them any direction. Ron will make contact. Commission verbally agreed to pay the same as last year, \$250.

Introductions / Opening Remarks –

Donna Ennis and Ricky DeFoe

Keynote Address –

Donna Ennis

Invite Melanie Ford to talk on the JDAI program.

Anishinabe Prayer with Pipe Ceremony

Ricky DeFoe

Open Forum

Donna Ennis and Ricky DeFoe

Invites, agenda, sign in preparations

CD Staff

PA System

CD Staff

Food & Beverage

Ron Hagland (4th Street Market)

Clean Up

Commission Members

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Information was shared with the Commission about communications that had been received from various parties:

Bob Grytdahl of the Human Rights Office contacted Co-Chair Ennis to invite the DAIC to co-facilitate a second meeting regarding the Minnesota House of Representatives bill HF 3830 introduced May 6, 2010 by Representative Drazkowski, et. al., with a variety of

initiatives regarding illegal immigrating in the state of Minnesota. The second IMMIGRATION 2010 meeting will be held July 29, 2010, 4:45 pm, Room 303 City Hall.

The DAIC membership is down to eight persons. Donna asked the members to encourage others to apply to the city to be on the commission.

Veronica Nelson, an appointee to the Spirit Mountain Board, introduced herself to the commission. She is related to members of the Fond du Lac tribe. She is working on a Master Degree at UMD. Her area of study is ecology and human studies. As a new member to the board, Veronica is studying the plans and learning more about the site. Veronica plans to attend the DAIC monthly meetings and provide updates. (Donna asked to put her on the agenda as a standing item.)

Donna passed around job opportunity notices from MP. Ricky stated that it is good to receive these notices but that generally arrive too late to inform anyone looking for work.

Ron Boshey indicated that he is still working on the housing issues. He still plans to invite Theis and Talle and Bowman Properties to a future meeting. Ron also indicated that his computer is down, but expects it to be back up by next month.

Ron Hagland announced that the school district is re-directing funds from the magnet schools to hire and support ten new Integration Specialist positions. He indicated that the magnet schools were not producing the desired impact. The Integration Specialists will work with students of color and their families. The ten people offered the jobs are all persons of color. Their start date is August 16, 2010. Ron will invite them to the Feast and Forum.

Ricky expressed concern over the lack of attendance by members at the DAIC meeting and the need for more members.

NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:

Feast & Forum? (Aug 16th to finalize plans for 19th?)

ADJOURNMENT:

Donna moved the meeting be adjourned. Ron Boshey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.